gas mitigation commitments for period beyond 2012. This was resisted successfully by the developing countries, including India, on the grounds that the per capita greenhouse gas emissions of the developing countries, in general, were low in comparison to the developed countries, and that the overriding priority for the developing countries was poverty eradication for which economic growth was essential. A framework of legislative and policy measures are in place in India that would help in minimizing the causes of climate change. Several measures have already been implemented by the Government of India to promote efficient utilization of fossil fuels, use of renewable energy technologies, abatement of pollution and conservation of forests.

Johannesburg Earth Summit

373. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the major issues considered by the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Earth Summit) held in Johannesburg recently;

(b) the assessment of the progress made on various issues since the last Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, with highlights of the contentious issues involved and the Indian view point thereon; and

(c) the final resolutions adopted by the Summit and the follow up action required to be taken by India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) acted as a 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process and identified major accomplishments and obstacles in implementing Agenda 21. The major issues considered by the WSSD, *inter-alia*, include poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in a globalizing world, health and sustainable development, sustainable development of small island developing countries, means of implementation and institutional framework for sustainable development.

(b) The major outcome of the Summit was that it reaffirmed "sustainable development" as a central element of the international agenda and gave a new impetus on global action to fight poverty and protect the environment. The understanding of sustainable development was broadened and strengthened as a result of the Summit, particularly important linkages between poverty, the environment and the use of natural resources were clearly established. As a result of a coordinated approach adopted by the developing countries including India, in addition to reiterating Millennium Development Goals and objectives of various multilateral environment agreements the Summit agreed on:

(i) Increasing the number of people with access to clean water and sanitation facilities by half by the year 2015.

(ii) Reducing the proportion of people without access to cleaner energy by the year 2015.

(iii) Helping the developing countries with necessary resources to increase the share of renewable energy in a gradual manner.

(iv) Evolving an international regime to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources in a transparent manner.

(v) Developed Countries to take lead in shifting away from the present pattern of unsustainable consumption and production.

(vi) Successfully countered the efforts made by various blocks on imposing disguised trade barriers in the nature of eco-labeling, life-cycle analysis criteria, and inclusion of core labour standards of ILO.

(c) The Plan of Implementation and Political Declaration issued after the Summit has highlighted concerns of developing countries and reflect consensus among all countries arrived after the WSSD. The Plan of Implementation calls for immediate international action to tackle these issues. The Government regularly monitors its performance on the benchmark of annual and Five Year Plans which contain all elements of sustainable development. Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up a mechanism for follow up action on various decisions taken in the World Summit.